



Goodness of Fit Recording Transcript

About our project. Tar Heel Shared Reader, a project funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, is being conducted by the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, a unit in the Allied Health Sciences Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

You can access all project resources and materials free of charge at our website <http://sharedreader.org>.

Tar Heel Shared Reader is about helping teachers develop the knowledge and skills required to provide effective individual and group shared reading interactions with students with significant cognitive disabilities who are not yet reading extended text with comprehension.

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities represent a diverse group of students who receive special education services under a variety of eligibility categories in the U.S. They have cognitive and adaptive behavior impairments that are pervasive across life domains. Many students with significant cognitive disabilities have a combination of physical, sensory, and/or communication impairments that makes their disabilities complex and learning extremely challenging.

In Tar Heel Shared Reader, we address the challenges through an approach to shared reading that emphasizes interaction and engagement,

While building vocabulary,

And teaching important concepts about print.

As you consider whether shared reading should be included in your literacy program you should ask yourself the following questions:

Are your teachers looking for a research-based approach to improve communication and literacy outcomes for students?

Do you have students who are not yet reading with comprehension beyond beginning levels?

Do you have students who are not interested in shared reading or participate only because they are required to?

Do you have students who are passive or unable to communicate during shared reading?

Are you able to commit the time and personnel needed to help your teachers learn how to implement shared reading effectively?

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

If you answered yes to most or all of these questions, then Tar Heel Shared Read may be a good fit. Consider some of the resources that are available to help implement the approach.

First, there is the project website at <http://sharedreader.org> where all resources and materials can be accessed and used free of charge.

This includes administrative and coaching supports such a comprehensive administrator implementation guide, an implementation guide for coaches, and forms to help you assess school or program readiness more explicitly.

Professional development modules that teachers can complete in self-directed formats or coaches, or other facilitators can deliver in a facilitated format using recorded videos, step-by-step facilitator guides, and preplanned interactive activities and assessments.

There are also planning, self-reflection and observation supports, as well as other resources, that will support coaches and teachers as they work to maximize the impact of the time they spend engaged in shared reading with their students.

In addition to all of the resources on the sharedreader.org website, there is an instructional website that was created to support interactive and engaged shared reading using books in the Tar Heel Reader library. This site, <http://shared.tarheelreader.org>, is designed to help teachers have integrated access to the book, the comments they plan to make during shared reading, and onscreen communication supports for students with significant cognitive disabilities who need support communicating and interacting.

As your teachers learn about shared reading and the approach in Tar Heel Shared Reader, they can also learn about using this Tar Heel Shared Reader interface, and how it can support students who find it challenging to engage with groups, establish joint attention, and/or communicate and interact during shared reading.

We hope that you will take time to explore the sharedreader.org website

and check out the Administrator Implementation Guide in the Administrator Portal section of the website to learn more about the details involved in using Tar Heel Shared Reader in your school or program.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Tar Heel Shared Reader. If you have questions email us at sharedreader@unc.edu.

[disclaimer]